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West, with reference to the handling of drinking water, the possibility and practicability of standardizing this feature of "railroading" and public health was considered. The value of standardization became more and more convincing as the many and widely different practices by which these simple procedures were being carried out were noted. In discussing this matter with yard and coach foremen, these men were invariably of the opinion that standardization would be of value. It is believed that railroad and health officials could well come together and discuss the matter of standardization of coach yard design and practice with mutual value to each.

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### THE U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OFFICIAL WATER STANDARDS.

For the purpose of administration of the Interstate Quarantine Regulations of the United States as they relate to drinking water supplied on cars and vessels of common carriers, a bacteriological standard for such waters was recommended by a commission of sanitary experts and promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury on October 21, 1914. With reference to this, the following extracts are quoted from pages 268-269 of the Annual Report of the United States Public Health Service, 1915:

"Owing to the impossibility of determining the source and the conditions under which the water is gathered, greater reliance than is ordinarily justified must be placed upon bacteriological findings. \* \* \* The recommendations (bacteriological standard) \* \* \* are in no sense a standard for municipalities, neither do they indicate the ideal potable water \* \* \*. The standard is based solely on the results of laboratory examinations and does not include sanitary surveys of watersheds, and the enumeration of undesirable or dangerous conditions thereon, a procedure which is of the greatest value. With the various physical properties, mineral constituents, and chemical impurities the standard as adopted does not deal. This is a matter which has been left for future consideration."

Since the adoption of this standard, facilities have been developed in State health departments for obtaining information as to "the source and conditions under which the water is gathered"; so that at present, certificates for interstate carrier waters are received regularly from every State in the Union and the District of Columbia, with the exception of Nevada and Colorado. Despite the intention of the commission which recommended the standard, and no doubt in view of the extension of the supervision of interstate carrier waters to include over 3,000 supplies in all parts of the country (almost 2,000 of which are public supplies), the Treasury Department Standard for Drinking Water for Interstate Carriers has been applied to many

municipal water treatment plants and is also being used in courts as the legal standard of purity for water. Owing to the extension of the supervision over interstate common carrier waters to include practically all the States, it has been found that there is a wide divergence of practice among State health departments in making bacteriological and chemical examinations of water, in making sanitary surveys of the water supplies, and in judging the sanitary quality and safety of the water. This divergence has placed a great burden upon the Bureau of the Public Health Service in the administration of the Interstate Quarantine Regulations as they relate to drinking water supplied on interstate common carriers.

Furthermore, the extensive use of the Treasury Department Standard, and its application to all classes of water supplies, despite the commission's intention, has been productive of considerable discussion by State health departments, National scientific societies, water works officials, and sanitarians. The consensus of opinion is that the Treasury Department Standard should be reviewed and its limitations and applications specifically defined.

In view of the foregoing information, and in order to provide for more effective administration of the Interstate Quarantine Regulations of the United States, as they relate to drinking water provided on interstate common carriers, a committee known as the Advisory Committee on Official Water Standards has been appointed by the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to review the present Treasury Department Standard for Drinking Water on Interstate Common Carriers and to recommend a standard, or standards, based on recommended specific methods of laboratory analysis and field survey which will be applicable to all classes of water supplies coming within the supervision of the Interstate Quarantine Regulations of the United States. It is desirable that the committee recommend advisable methods of laboratory analysis and field survey, and a reasonable basis of judging the sanitary quality and safety of a water for use in all States. In view of the fact that such a standard, or standards, will be used widely, certain Federal bureaus, the National scientific societies concerned with water supply, the associations of State health officials, and common carriers, have been invited to designate representatives on this committee, and prominent water-works operators and sanitarians have been invited to become members.

In order that the Advisory Committee on Official Water Standards might be organized readily and that each member might have a clear understanding of the work to be accomplished and the manner of accomplishment, a meeting was held at Washington, D. C., May 15, 1922.

At this meeting 31 out of the 39 members were present. Bacteriological, chemical and physical, field survey, and standards' appraisal and application subcommittees were appointed to carry out the work of the Advisory Committee. It is expected to have a complete report of the Advisory Committee within a year.

**Members of the Advisory Committee on Official Water Standards.**

*Chairman, A. J. McLaughlin.*

**REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

**Agriculture Department:**

W. W. Skinner, Asst. Chief, Bureau of Chemistry, Washington, D. C.

**Commerce Department:**

H. S. Davis, Fish Pathologist, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

F. W. Smither, Chemist, Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

**Interior Department:**

W. D. Collins, Chief, Quality of Water Division, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

**Navy Department:**

Charles S. J. Butler, Commander, Navy Medical School, Washington, D. C.

**Public Health Service:**

W. H. Frost, Surgeon, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Geo. W. McCoy, Surgeon, Hygienic Laboratory, Washington, D. C.

A. J. McLaughlin, Asst. Surgeon General, Washington, D. C.

Sol Pincus, Assoc. San. Engr., 116 Custom House, New York City.

R. E. Tarbett, San. Engr., 3d and Kilgour Sts., Cincinnati, Ohio.

**War Department:**

A. P. Hitchens, Major, Army Medical School, Washington, D. C.

**REPRESENTATIVES OF SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS.**

**American Chemical Society:**

Lewis I. Birdsall, Superintendent of Filtration, St. Anthony Falls Station, Minneapolis, Minn.

**American Medical Association:**

Victor C. Vaughan, Chairman, Division of Medical Sciences, National Research Council, 1701 Mass. Ave., Washington, D. C.

**American Public Health Association:**

Wm. H. Park, Director of Research Laboratories, City Department of Health, New York, N. Y.

**American Railway Association:**

Thomas R. Crowder, Chief Surgeon, Pullman Co., Chicago, Ill.

**American Society of Civil Engineers:**

Geo. C. Whipple, President, The Engineering School, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

**American Society for Municipal Improvements:**

Morris R. Sherrerd, Consulting Engineer, Dept. of Streets & Public Improvements, City Hall, Newark, N. J.

**American Water Works Association:**

A. W. Freeman, Resident Lecturer, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

**Association of Official Agricultural Chemists:**

J. W. Sale, Chemist, Bureau of Chemistry, Washington, D. C.

**Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities:**

S. W. Welch, State Health Officer, Montgomery, Ala.

**Conference of State Sanitary Engineers:**

C. A. Emerson, Chief Engr., State Department of Health, Harrisburg, Pa.

**Society of American Bacteriologists:**

W. H. Frost, Surgeon, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

**SANITARIANS.**

Edward Bartow, Professor of Chemistry, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

H. W. Clark, Director, Division of Water and Sewage Laboratories, State Department of Public Health, Boston, Mass.

W. H. Dittoe, Chief Engineer, State Department of Health, Columbus, Ohio.

George G. Earl, Gen. Supt., Sewerage and Water Board, New Orleans, La.

J. W. Ellms, Consulting Engr., Frazier-Ellms-Sheal Co., Illuminating Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

George W. Fuller, Consulting Engineer, 170 Broadway, New York City.

J. J. Hinman, Associate Professor of Sanitation, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Chas. G. Hyde, Professor of San. Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.

Edwin O. Jordan, Professor of Bacteriology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

H. E. Jordan, Superintendent of Filtration, 113 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, Ind.

Roger G. Perkins, Professor of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Milton J. Rosenau, Professor of Preventive Medicine and Hygiene, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Milton F. Stein, Civil Engineer, 6753 Lafayette Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Wm. Firth Wells, Biologist and Sanitarian, New York Conservation Commission, Albany, N. Y.

Robert Spurr Weston, Consulting Engineer, 14 Beacon Street, Boston 9, Mass.

H. A. Whittaker, Director, Division of Sanitation, State Board of Health, Minneapolis, Minn.

C.-E. A. Winslow, Professor of Public Health, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Abel Wolman, Division Engineer, State Department of Health, Baltimore, Md.

C. C. Young, Director, Bureau of Laboratories, State Department of Health, Lansing, Mich.

**DEATHS DURING WEEK ENDED JUNE 3, 1922.**

*Summary of information received by telegraph from industrial insurance companies for week ended June 3, 1922, and corresponding week, 1921. (From the Weekly Health Index, June 6, 1922, issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.)*

	Week ended June 3, 1922.	Corresponding week, 1921.
Policies in force.....	49, 972, 984	46, 830, 928
Number of death claims.....	7, 189	7, 242
Death claims per 1,000 policies in force, annual rate.....	7.5	8.1